

Remarks of John McCain  
Chairman - Committee on Indian Affairs  
Hearing on the Status of Indian Health Care

April 13, 2005 - 9:30 a.m.

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Good morning and welcome to the Committee oversight hearing on the status of Indian health care. While the Indian Health Service has reported progress, the mortality rates among Native Americans from causes as diverse as diabetes, tuberculosis, certain types of cancer, and suicide, remain shockingly above the national average and unacceptably high.

For a number of Congresses, this Committee has sought to reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, but to date this has not been done. I hope that the testimony we receive today will inspire and inform our efforts as we again seek to update the law to reflect the current health needs in Indian Country.

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